

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 are currently pending in the application; Claims 1-4 having been amended, and new Claims 5-24 having been added, by way of the present response. Applicants respectfully assert that support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and that therefore no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action the drawings were objected to; the disclosure was objected to; and Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,397,020 to Kim.

As stated above the drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they did not include reference signs mentioned in the description. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to state “22a” and “204” in place of the previous statements of “23a” and 240.”

The drawings were also objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they included reference signs not mentioned in the description. In response, Applicants respectfully assert that by the above amendments to the specification, reference sign “22a” is mentioned. Applicants have further amended the specification to state “34” in place of previous statements of “35”, and have added description of reference signs “614” and “615.” Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

As stated above the disclosure was objected to because of informalities. In response, as discussed above, Applicants have amended the specification to state “204” and “22a” in place of the previous statements of “240” and “23a,” in accordance with the Examiner’s

helpful suggestion. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the disclosure be withdrawn.

As stated above Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kim. Applicants respectfully assert that amendments to the claims have overcome the rejection for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to image forming apparatuses (e.g., independent Claims 1 and 2), as well as methods of forming an image (e.g., independent Claims 3 and 4). Independent Claims 1 and 2 recite a detection device configured to detect a type of a sheet based on an amount of light reflected by a surface of the sheet. Independent Claims 3 and 4 recite providing a detection device configured to detect a type of a sheet based on an amount of light reflected by a surface of the sheet.

Kim is directed to an image printing apparatus and control method. Kim states that a printing material 90 is determined as unacceptable for printing when, based on the reading of a code printed on the printing material 90, it is determined that any data about the printing material 90 is omitted, when the printing material 90 is manufactured by an unapproved manufacturer, when a term of use of the printing material 90 has expired, or when characteristics of the printing material 90 are unacceptable for smooth operation of the image printing apparatus.¹

Applicants respectfully assert that Kim does not teach, or render obvious, however, the claimed features of a detection device configured to detect a type of a sheet based on an amount of light reflected by a surface of the sheet, as recited in independent Claims 1-4. Rather, Applicants respectfully assert that Kim at most states that a type of the printing material 90 is detected based on reading of the code printed on the printing material 90, rather than on an amount of light reflected by the printing material 90, for example.

¹ Column 10, lines 18-28.

Specifically, independent Claims 1 and 2 recite "a detection device configured to detect a type of a sheet based on an amount of light reflected by a surface of the sheet," and independent Claims 3 and 4 recite "providing a detection device configured to detect a type of a sheet based on an amount of light reflected by a surface of the sheet." Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn, and the allowance of independent Claims 1-4.

Applicants respectfully assert that new Claims 5-24 are allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend, as well as for their own features. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of new dependent Claims 5-24.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-24 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Customer Number

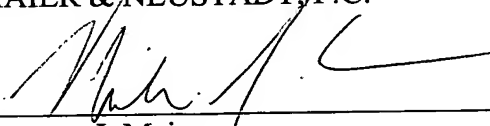
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

GJM/PH/me
I:\ATTY\PH\24\S\247585\PRP AM 073004.DOC

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record

Philip J. Hoffmann
Registration No. 46,340